

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CU-02 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W
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R 270645Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4346

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 3221

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT CH

SUBJ: REBUILDING THE COURT SYSTEM

REF: HK 2924

1. FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS' RESURRECTION OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE COURT'S RECENT ACTION GRANTING AMNESTY TO KMT WAR-CRIMINALS (REFTEL), WE NOW HAVE THE FIRST MEDIA REFERENCES SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION TO A PROVINCIAL HIGHER PEOPLE'S COURT. A TSINGHAI BROADCAST (MARCH 24) IDENTIFIED YANG HSI-LIN AS PRESIDENT OF THAT PROVINCE'S COURT. YANG IS PRESUMABLY THE SAME INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED IN MARCH 1960 AS THEN SECRETARY GENERAL OF TSINGHAI'S PARTY COMMITTEE.

2. WHEREAS ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PREVIOUS AMNESTIES HAD MADE REFERENCE TO INVOLVEMENT OF HIGHER PEOPLE'S COURTS, THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH MENTION WITH THE LATEST RELEASE. THIS

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SUGGESTS THAT THESE BODIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN FULLY RESTORED

IN THE PROVINCES. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY OTHER PROVINCES
BESIDES TSINGHAI HAVE REESTABLISHED THESE COURTS. HOWEVER,
THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THIS LEVEL OF THE COURT SYSTEM WOULD
FURTHER ENHANCE THE REGIME'S IMAGE OF NORMALCY AND ADHERENCE
TO PROCEDURE. AS AN "ORGAN OF PROLETARIAN DICTATORSHIP",
THE COURT SYSTEM CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAVE A ROLE IN THE CURRENT
DICTATORSHIP CAMPAIGN.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, SUPREME COURT, POLICIES, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK03221
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750107-0792
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750310/aaaaaizq.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HK 2924
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REBUILDING THE COURT SYSTEM
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006